

Minutes of a Dales Way Association Committee Meeting

The Meeting took place on Sunday, 3rd December 1955 at 67 Grove Road, Ilkley.

Present: Alyson Coney, Douglas Cossar, David Smith, Colin Speakman, Ken & Margaret Staines.

1. Apologies were received from Paul Hannon. *Frank Sanderson*
2. The Minutes of the previous Meeting, held on 17th September, were agreed to be a correct record.
3. Most matters Arising from the Minutes are covered elsewhere in the Agenda. However Douglas Cossar reported that he had not yet been able to respond to the Ramblers' about European Trails.
4. **Officers Reports.**

Membership. Current figures are unreliable as a large number have not yet renewed their subscriptions which are due this quarter. At the time of the meeting there were 216 fully paid up members of whom 77 offered accommodation. Subscription renewals were still awaited from 41 members of whom 32 offered accommodation. Second reminders will be sent to overdue accommodation providers in the next week.

In the calendar year to date we had lost 47 members of whom 6 had offered accommodation. On the plus side we had gained 82 new members during the year of whom 9 offered accommodation. Standing Orders are currently held from 44 Members.

Finance. Current balance in the Bank is over £2300 which is more than sufficient to meet anticipated expenditure (including way marks, new stock of sweat shirts etc). A member had asked about the possibility of Life Membership. This was not thought to be possible although there was nothing to stop a Member paying his subscription for, say, 10 years in advance at the current rate.

Sales. Sweat shirts are proving to be very popular and a further batch is to be ordered. Stock of badges is getting a bit low and a further batch will need to be ordered before too long. A video on the Dales Way has recently been put on sale and we have an offer to participate in this. It is too early to say how best we can take advantage of this.

National Park. A letter had been received from John Baker of the Yorkshire Dales

National Park agreeing that they would use our special way marks. These would initially only be installed where problems were reported. This would mean a very piecemeal approach to the project and it will be necessary to identify such problems and liaise with the National Park. A contact had been named and it is hoped that this will be able to go ahead in a constructive manner. The Park had not offered to pay for supply of way marks and it was agreed that we would not press for payment for an initial batch (say 100) in the interests of good will.

The Route. Very useful discussions had taken place with the National Trust in Upper Wharfedale. In particular the possibilities of creating an alternative to the road walking between Beckermonds and Oughtershaw was considered in a very constructive manner. There is a real possibility that something may be achieved here.

There was no new news about the Ilkley/Addingham stretch - but it was felt that, in due course, a footbridge would be provided and the track re routed along the river bank. (This is at the point previously discussed).

Clive Bell of the Ramblers' and also a DWA member, has reported continuing progress on a new path alongside the Addingham/Bolton Bridge road - thus avoiding the majority of the road walking necessary on the 'official' route.

Ramblers' at Harrogate had been asked for any recommendations/help for way marking on their Link route. (Letter received from them after the meeting agreeing to help).

5. Way Marks

The design of these has turned out to be more complicated than originally expected. It was now agreed that there would be four designs incorporating a vertical arrow and text. These would be one for the main route and one each for the three Link routes. The ones for the Link routes would have text stating the particular route - eg Leeds - Ilkley Link. The signs would comply with the official Countryside Commission recommendations which would mean four colours for each of the four signs - yellow, blue, red & white indicating footpaths, bridle ways etc.

It was agreed that we proceed on the above lines with a ceiling of £1500 which should be more than sufficient. After getting a quote these would be ordered and offered to the various Authorities with request for payment at cost (rounded up to the nearest penny). However ref comment above on probable initial free supply to YDNP. All going to plan, we should have the stock of these fairly early in the New Year and it is hoped that they can be taken by hand to the Authorities in order to make contact and discuss installation. What is the 'official' route?

6. Handbook for 1996.

After some discussion it was accepted that this would need to have extra pages to allow additional information on the Link routes to be included together with up dating and possible amplification of existing details. Alan Sutcliffe of the Yorkshire Dales Society to be asked to contribute the information on available public transport. Lengthsmen to be asked to check out details for their sections - eg facilities etc. Deadline for information to Douglas Cossar is the first week in January.

Operators of Bunk Barns and Camp Sites along the route had now been contacted and most had become members. (3 Bunk Houses & 5 Camp Sites). The situation to be reviewed in time for the new Handbook.

The question of the order that accommodation addresses are listed was considered - but there seems to be no answer beyond making sure they are alphabetical. There will always be some benefit to those at the top of the list for each place.

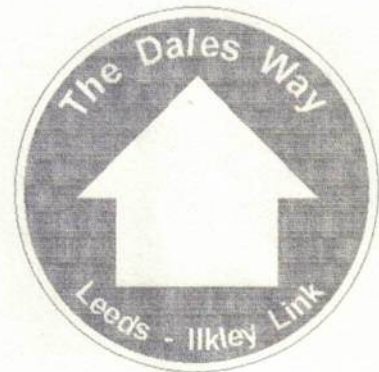
7. The Treasurer said that a volunteer was needed to carry out an independent check on the Accounts before the AGM. This was an informal task requiring no specialist knowledge and should not take very long.

The question of organising a survey of usage of the route (mentioned in the last minutes) was not discussed beyond agreeing that this needs to be covered at the next meeting.

8. It was agreed that the next ordinary committee meeting be on **Sunday 25th February** at 67 Grove Road. The date for the AGM was set for **Saturday 18th May**. The venue for the latter was not mentioned so will be at Linton again unless strong representations are made to the Treasurer who will book the hall early in the New Year. Please contact David Smith quickly if there are any problems with the above dates.

Once again the Committee are grateful for the hospitality provided by Fleur & Colin Speakman.

David Smith



Proposed Way Marks.
Full size is 75mm

